

PAWNEE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brian Rottinghaus
Superintendent
Don Jacobs
Principal

729 E Street, P. O. Box 393
Pawnee City, Nebraska 68420
Phone (402) 852-2988
Fax (402) 852-2993

Mission Statement:
High Expectations
+Maximum Educational Opportunities
Life-Long Learners

August 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, parts of Nebraska will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. **This will be the second day of school for the 2017-18 school year.** There will also be a **2:30 PM student dismissal that day.** This is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States, and this will not occur again until 2045. The event presents an exciting learning opportunity for our students, especially since Pawnee City is in the direct path of the eclipse. We plan to incorporate the eclipse into our curriculum, activities, and events of your child's day.

While this is an excellent opportunity for our students, we want to notify you of some risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse. It is only safe to view the eclipse with the naked eye when the moon completely covers the disk of the sun. At any other time it is not safe to view the eclipse without the proper precautionary measures. Failure to adhere to proper precautionary measures can result in permanent ocular damage and vision loss. For more information on these measures, here is a link to information released by NASA: <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEhelp/safety2.html>.

As always, your child's safety is a top priority to our school. In order to reduce the risk associated with viewing the eclipse, we have taken some precautionary measures. We have acquired eclipse-safe viewing glasses that meet the "2012 Transmission Requirements of EN 1836:2005 & AS/NZS 1338.1:1992 for Eclipse filters (Queensland Directive)." Students will be encouraged to use these to view the eclipse safely. For more information regarding the safety certification of the special viewing glasses the school will be using, please visit <https://www.rainbowsymphony.com/eclipse-glasses>. Students will be discouraged from looking at the eclipse during its partial stages when risk of ocular damage is at its greatest. However, we cannot eliminate all risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse of this magnitude.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the specific manner the eclipse will be incorporated into your child's school day, please contact your child's school administrator for more details. Parents and guardians who do not feel comfortable allowing their children to take part in viewing the eclipse will be permitted to withhold their child from all or part of school that day, or if parents and guardians wish to dismiss their students to enjoy the event as a family for all or part of school that day, we will excuse those absences on your child's record. We will also provide a means to allow your child to make up any missed instructional classwork if they are absent for some or all of that day. If your child attends school that day, he or she will be included in the eclipse viewing activities we have planned.

Sincerely,



Brian Rottinghaus
Superintendent

We Believe...

students can reach their individual potential through high expectations and a differentiated, diverse curriculum.
education is an ever-changing process that provides students with 21st Century Skills to become lifelong learners.
learning must take place in a safe environment where students explore, problem solve and take academic risks.
students have a shared responsibility for learning that enables them to become responsible citizens.